



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
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USDA Rural Development Provides Grants Promoting Energy Efficiency Endeavors

Valentine, Neb. November 22, 2005-USDA Rural Development's Scot Blehm, state director for Nebraska, recognized five recipients today who will utilize nearly \$28,450 to make energy efficiency improvements that will help conserve energy.

"Energy grants help ensure the profitability and sustainability of rural businesses and producers," stated Blehm. "With the dollars saved on energy, Nebraska's rural economy will gain strength as those dollars are reinvested back into the communities."

Energy grant recipients include:

- Flower Land in Valentine will use \$9,570 for energy improvements to their business including new windows, doors, insulation, heating/cooling system. Improvements will save 179 million British thermal units (btus) of energy and reduce energy costs by 37 percent.
- Uncle Buck's Lodge of Brewster received \$2,740 to make energy efficiency improvements to their freezer/cooler and water heating equipment. Improvements will save over 165 million btus of energy and reduce energy consumption by over 50 percent. Cost of investment will be returned in seven years.
- Gross Seed Company of Johnstown awarded \$4,870, to install energy efficient windows and doors that will save approximately \$1,002 per year as 26 percent or 73,862 btus of energy are saved.
- Johnny B. Lien of Springview received \$4,000 to replace inefficient irrigation pump equipment and an old diesel power unit with a new efficient pump and electric motor. Improvements will save over 87 percent in energy consumption and return the cost of investment in just 2.34 years.
- The Front Porch Inn in Bassett will utilize \$7,270 to install a new energy efficient HVAC system, water heater, dryer, windows/doors, and insulation. Seventy-seven percent or 217,704,340 btus of energy will be saved equating to approximately \$3,721 a year in savings.

Statewide, \$418,348 in energy grants were awarded in Fiscal Year 2005 assisting in 36 energy efficiency improvement projects and 1 renewable energy. The 2002 Farm Bill made available monies for energy projects. Since the beginning of the program, Nebraska has received nearly \$778,000 for 57 energy projects.

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Energy grants are awarded to farmers, ranchers, and for-profit small rural businesses for renewable energy systems such as wind, solar, biomass, biogas, or geothermal sources or hydrogen derived from biomass or water using wind, solar, or geothermal energy sources; and for energy efficiency improvement projects such as improvements to HVAC systems, insulation, refrigeration, lighting, pumping systems, air systems, motor systems, irrigation systems, etc.

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